

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAJ-01 SY-10 OPR-02 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

DRC-01 EURE-00 /116 W

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O P 202008Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7627

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7595

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION

REF MADRID 7573

1. IN 7:00 PM BROADCAST, SPANISH GOVERNMENT NEWS SERVICE MADE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT: "THE INVESTIGATION AT THE SCENE OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT ADMIRAL CARRERO BLANCO HAS REVEALED THAT IT INVOLVED A CRIMINAL ATTEMPT. FROM THE BASEMENT OF NO. 104 CLAUDIO COELLO STREET A TUNNEL HAD BEEN DUG REACHING UNDER THE STREET OPPOSITE THAT NUMBER. AT THAT POINT A POTENT CHARGE WAS DETONATED BY MEANS OF AN OUTSIDE MECHANISM AT THE PRECISE MOMENT AT WHICH THE AUTOMOBILE IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT WAS RIDING, WAS PASSING BY WHILE FOLLOWING ITS USUAL ROUTE. POLICE INSPECTOR JUAQ ANTONIO BUENO FERNANDEZ AND THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE, JOSE LUIS PEREZ MOJENA, WERE ALSO KILLED."

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2. THERE NO INDICATIONS AS YET WHO PERPETRATORS ASSASSINATION

WERE.

3. DEATH OF PRESIDENT OCCURRED AFTER HE HAD LEFT THE JESUIT CHURCH, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY, WHERE THE PRESIDENT ATTENDED DAILY MASS. HE HAD CIRCLED THE BLOCK IN HIS CAR WHEN, AT APPROXIMATELY 0930, THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED AFTER HIS CAR PASSED THE INTERSECTION OF CLAUDIO COELLO AND MALDONADO STREETS BEHIND THE CHURCH WHERE HE HAD JUST ATTENDED MASS. EXPLOSION BLEW HIS CAR SOME FIVE STORIES INTO AIR AND CAR LANDED IN INSIDE COURTYARD OF ADJACENT BUILDING, KILLING BODYGUARD AND DRIVER IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT.

4. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY OPPOSITION SOURCE, OPPOSITION FIGURES ARE EXTREMELY NERVOUS AS RESULT OF CARRERO DEATH AND BELIEVE THERE MAY BE HARSH CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION ACTIVITY. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT NUMEROUS ARRESTS OF OPPOSITIONISTS WILL BE MADE.

5. FUNERAL SCHEDULED FOR DEC 21 AT 4:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED OFFICIAL THREE-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING BEGINNING DEC 21.

6. EMBASSY HAS QUIETLY TAKEN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. HOWEVER, GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN MADRID AND REST OF COUNTRY APPEARS CALM AND STREETS ARE STILL CROWDED WITH HOLIDAY SHOPPERS.

7. THERE IS ALSO REPORT, WHICH EMBASSY UNABLE CONFIRM SO FAR, THAT "CARABANCHEL TEN" TRIAL RESUMED THIS AFTERNOON, FOLLOWING THIS MORNING'S SUSPENSION.

8. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THIS IS THE FIRST ASSASSINATION OF A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN IN MORE THAN THREE DECADES.
RIVERO

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